



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 46

October 2010

Issue No. 2

Bird Banding Field Trip

Fifteen people can join Gallus Quigley for a Limited Edition field trip to the Wekiva Basin Banding Station on **Sunday, October 24th**. Watching, and perhaps participating, as migratory birds fly into the mist nets and are taken out, banded and let loose to perhaps return to the nets another day can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Limited Edition field trips cost \$10/Audubon member and \$15/non-members. For details or to make a reservation on a first-come basis, contact Gallus at gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407/242-7833.

October Field Trip—PEAR PARK

On **Saturday October 30th**, we will visit Palatka Environmental and Agricultural Reserve (PEAR Park) at 5336 University Ave., Leesburg— just off US 27. We'll hike 2–3 miles around this 318-acre park. They have native plant demonstration gardens, a nature center, a bluebird trail and several restoration areas for different species, including Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark and Florida Scrub-jay. Bring insect repellent and water. Meet at the nature center at 7:45 AM and we'll finish up around lunch; picnic tables available. Contact me at GQuigley@lakecountyfl.gov or 407/242-7833.

Money, Money, Money

Do you know a good accountant—or are you one? The Finance Committee of Orange Audubon Society needs an accountant who would be willing to look at our financial records—bank statements and monthly reports, etc.—to see that everything is in agreement. Money has been budgeted for this task, but pro-bono work would be appreciated. If you would be willing to help or know someone, contact Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)]

CORRECTED VERSION: This Month's Program: October 21, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Florida Turtles, Native and Introduced
by Eric Holt

Twenty-five native turtle species can be found in and around Florida, along with one established non-native (the Red-eared Slider). Eric Holt is a local turtle aficionado and researcher who enjoys sharing his knowledge about these fascinating creatures. Over a 35+ year period, he has kept over 85 species of turtle or tortoise and bred many of them. His current collection encompasses over 1,000 turtles and tortoises, including 50 species. In 2002 he launched a website www.empireoftheturtle.com/ that includes extensive identification information.

Eric will provide identification tips and information on the ranges, habitats, and unique behaviors of the Florida species. He has promised to bring a number of live turtles, so this will be a great program for children.

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are held in the Camellia Room of Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando (for directions call 407-246-2620). We look forward to seeing you!

Deborah Green, Program Coordinator

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June)
at 7 PM in the Camellia Room at:
Harry P. Leu Garden,
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.
For directions call: 407-246-2620

Fall 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) former board member Bob Sanders will teach a fall 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC). Bob began OAS' successful Limited Edition field trips and Birds of Prey ID Classes while serving on the board; he teaches the Elderhostel/Exploritas program "Beautiful Birds of Central Florida" and is an independent birding guide who has escorted US, Canadian and European visitors to some of Central Florida's best birding spots.

Enroll in the class to learn new skills or sharpen your existing ability to name bird species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues. The course includes a classroom session October 16th at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on October 23rd and 30th; time for all sessions is 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Field session locales will be announced at the start of class. Goals of the course are to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques and basic birding principles, bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics and tips on using field guides and checklists; and (rarely discussed, but important) ethics of birding.

Registration is required and class is limited to 20 students. Cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children age 12 or under with a registered adult, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$50, which includes BBWC registration (member price \$30) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in OAS, National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida (\$20 promotional rate). Such new memberships *must be paid directly* to OAS as prescribed herein. Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application. To reserve a space, contact Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796]. For questions about the class, contact Bob [procrow@bellsouth.net or 407/898-9798].

Early birds get the best seats, so hurry!

Get involved! Join a committee!

The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to help setup and greet members before meetings. Contact Samantha Eckhaus at eckhaus@yahoo.com or 407/435-7747. The **Publicity committee** is also looking for help. If you have or know contacts in the media (printed or otherwise) please help get the word out. Contact: Danielle at dponsolle@cfl.rr.com

Happy Halloween Shopping!!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has been invited to participate at the 13th annual Oakland Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival (OHF) held at Speer Park in Oakland on Saturday, October 30th. This event, a family-oriented event with activities for 'kids' of all ages including narrated tours of historic Oakland and guided eco-tours of Lake Apopka, will help OAS by allowing us to reach out to new members and to help fulfill our budgetary goals for the year by selling our nature-oriented merchandise. The success of these events depends on OAS volunteers.

Don't be spooked!! We already have a couple of volunteers, so contact us now to help for a couple of hours at this one-day event in Oakland. No experience is needed; if you like to shop, you know how to help others make their selections. Please contact Loretta [LNS-OAS@att.net or 407/886-2925 (eve.)] to volunteer. Thanks in advance.

Loretta Satterthwaite

November Elections – Much at Stake

Just a quick reminder to our members that Audubon, a 501(c)(3) organization, is prohibited by federal guidelines from endorsing candidates for political offices. Members should learn about the voting records of incumbents and the positions of other candidates and then vote in federal, state and local elections.

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural beauty of Florida and the World and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

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The *OASis* is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Our Treasured Black Bears or a Trophy Hunter's Prize?

As most of you know, the Florida Black Bear is listed as a THREATENED species in Florida and has been protected from "trophy hunting" for more than a decade. The species is just now starting to recover in portions of the state where it was decimated due to habitat loss & hunting.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee (FWC) is presently taking comments from the public on its proposed "bear management plan". Embedded in the plan is the intent to "explore hunting as part of Florida's bear management plan". To make matters worse, an out-of-state hunting group has spearheaded a campaign to urge its members to submit comments in favor of hunting bears in Florida. Trophy hunters couldn't care less about our state or our flora and fauna. What they do care about is a bear head or hide on their walls or "bear parts" to sell on the black market. FWC acknowledges it does not have adequate resources to respond to current bear issues, so how could they possibly attempt to oversee hunts, enforce bag limits and respond to complaints that would undoubtedly occur. Also, hunting would not target the problem bears who live near suburban homes because the hunters want large males in wilderness areas that would make impressive trophies.

Black bears are shy animals who pose little threat to the people of Florida. Invariably, the conflicts you read or hear about are the result of people either feeding bears or leaving garbage and pet foods accessible to the bears. Always remember, "A fed bear is a dead bear". Bear-resistant trash cans—not bullets—keep bears out of our neighborhoods. For a limited time you may voice your opposition to hunting of the Florida Black Bear at: <http://share2.myfwc.com/BearMP/Lists/Public%20comments%20for%20the%20Bear%20Management%20Plan/AllItems.aspx>

The entire draft plan can be downloaded from the following link: <http://share2.myfwc.com/BearMP/Shared%20Documents/Bear%20Management%20Plan%20Draft%205.1.pdf>

"Time is truly of the essence". Please spread the word.

Sharon Robbins, Conservation Chair

Amendment 4 Give Yourself A Vote On Growth! Vote Yes!

With Amendment 4 "We the People" will have a Way to Protect our Hometowns! Here's the ballot title and the summary you will see on the November 2010 ballot:

Ballot Title: Referenda Required For Adoption And Amendment of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

Ballot Summary: Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, **the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors** of the local government **by referendum** following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice...etc.

Facts: Over-development crashed our home values and raised our taxes. Florida's local growth plans already have enough land approved for future development to add 80 million more people to today's population of 18 million.

Solution: Under Amendment 4, your local government will study and vote as usual on requested changes to your local growth plan. But there's one new step—YOU. You will get to vote those plan changes up or down on the next regularly scheduled Election Day. It's that simple. VOTE YES! on Amendment 4.

Help Us Go Green and Save Some Trees!

If you are willing to forego a paper copy of our OASis newsletter and just receive an email announcement when each issue is available on-line, please send your email to Mike Daley at miked351@bellsouth.net (see box on page 2). You will receive an email alert. Not only will this save trees and other resources, but it will save your chapter money that can go towards conservation and education activities. Thank you for your cooperation.



Birds of Prey ID Class

The first of three Birds of Prey Identification classes will be held on **Sunday, October 31st** from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (Lust Rd. entrance). Each of the classes is designed to enhance the birder's ability to identify raptors using a holistic approach. Field trip leader Gallus Quigley will be the instructor and there is no charge for the class, but Orange Audubon Society appreciates any contributions for these classes. Each class is stand-alone, so you needn't commit to being at all of them. Contact Gallus, gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407/242-7833.

It's Fiesta Time!!

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the 40th Annual Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Orlando's largest, longest running (and FREE!) arts and crafts festival, occurs on Nov. 6th and 7th, with preparatory set-up on Friday evening Nov. 5th starting at approximately 5:00 PM. Friday evening will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (~8:00–6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down merchandise and, the fun part — helping to sell nature-oriented merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, it is easiest to stay for 3–4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people for each of the days, just for fund raising activities. Volunteer early and have your choice of day and time of day. If by some extraordinary luck we have enough volunteers or volunteers who *only* wish to work with children, OAS could again offer its fun "kids' art" table.

This is OAS' biggest outreach event directed beyond our membership and we *really* do need your help. Please contact us soon to volunteer or if you have questions [LNS-oas@att.net or 407/886-2925 (eve.) or mwilliam@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)]; then mark your calendar and commit to help OAS meet its financial goals and reach out for new members. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

September 18th Field Trip Report

With almost as many birders as birds, we tallied 30 species on a very slow day at Mead Gardens. The highlight was an immature Dark Morph Short-Tailed Hawk at the end of the hike. There was a sighting of a possible Yellow-bellied Flycatcher but no one was able to confirm or photograph the bird. We also had 2 species of thrush, 4 warblers and a female Scarlet Tanager.

Gallus Quigley, Field Trip Chair

2010–2011 Budget

OAS' board of directors approved the following 2010–2011 budget, which is consistent with the organization's strategic financial goals of achieving a balanced budget and increasing restricted funds for a nature education center and other educational programs. Requests for additional financial information should be directed to Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407/644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

**Orange Audubon Society
Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2011**

Income:	
Contributions	\$7,763
Grant for education programs	5,000
Fund raising/outreach events	4,500
Investment earnings (realized and unrealized, net)	3,700
Membership dues	3,750
Educational classes and programs	3,700
Other fund raising	<u>1,850</u>
Total income	\$30,263
Expenditures:	
Conservation	\$ 1,175
Education programs	9,118
Fund raising/outreach events	2,500
Membership	50
Newsletters and annual brochure	8,762
Insurance	2,700
Office and general	3,750
Other fund raising	425
Sanctuary maintenance	<u>1,000</u>
Total expenditures	29,480
Change in net assets (see analysis)	\$ 783

Analysis of Change in Net Assets by Fund Type

<u>Increases:</u>	
CNPC endowed/restricted funds	\$1,026
Education restricted funds	335
Nature education center restricted funds	1,750
<u>Decreases:</u>	
Holiday Highlands restricted funds	(1,000)
Unrestricted funds	<u>(1,328)</u>
Change in net assets	\$ 783

**Give a Gift to the Environment
– Leave a Conservation Legacy –**

Please consider a gift/bequest to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). The funds can be designated for conservation, education, general use, or other purposes. For more information, contact Teresa Williams [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796 (eve.)]

OAS is a Federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization,
so contributions may be tax deductible.

22nd Annual Photo Contest Results and Awards Dinner

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) and potluck dinner program on June 17th was a great success, thanks to each of you. Brandywine's Deli (Winter Park) and owners/OAS members Kathy and Johnny Frankenberger contributed veggie lasagna and accompaniments and guests brought healthy side dishes and heavenly desserts to please the palates; Mosquito Creek Outdoors (Apopka) and owners/OAS members Paul and Diane Faircloth contributed a pair of Swarovski EL 8 x 32 W B binoculars to the silent auction, pleasing the pocketbooks of bidders; and the main attraction—hundreds of photo contest entries in the 22nd Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest—pleased the visual senses of 170+ people who attended. Stealing the show, however, were entries in OAS' inaugural Chertok YOUTH Nature Photography Contest!

Guests included Mike Rausch from Colonial Photo & Hobby (contest co-sponsor since 2004), and David Hunter and Mike Godwin, two of the 2010 judges (see related article in the September *OASis*). The Silent Auction raked in a record \$2,306, designated for OAS' future nature education center. Contest results were announced and awards were presented for winning images that are listed below by image placement, title and photographer's name.

Close Encounters category OPEN winners were: 1st place, *Gnatcatcher and Insect*, Ruth Pannunzio; 2nd place, *Outside the Shell*, Paul Hennessy; and 3rd place, *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, Michael Libbe. Honorable

mentions were awarded to: *Bug-eyed Dragon*, Alan Dart; *Curls*, Mary Atwood; *Grasshopper on Flower*, Kathy Urbach; *Osprey and Two Fish*, Ruth Pannunzio; and *Osprey Feeding Week Old Chick*, Jim Urbach.

Actions and Interactions category OPEN winners were: 1st place, *Osprey with Youngster on Nest*, Kathy Urbach; 2nd place, *Red-shouldered Hawk & Juveniles* and 3rd place, *Least Terns Mating*, both by Jim Urbach. Honorable mentions were awarded to: *Cattle Egret with Hungry Family*, John Wise; *Flippin' Crab*, Jack Rogers; *Great Egret Parent and Chick*, Jeffri Moore; *Limpkin Feeding Chick*, Vince Lamb; and *Sandhill Cranes—Checking on the Babies*, Myrna Erler-Bradshaw.

YOUTH winners in their *Close Encounters* category were: 1st place, *Limpkin Chicks*, Shaw Frederick; and Honorable Mentions were awarded to: *Bird's Eye View*, Chelsea Kasper; *I See You*, Alessa Craner; and *Purple Gallinule*, Ian Gregorchik.

YOUTH winners in their *Actions and Interactions* category were: 1st Place, *Florida Scrub Jay*, Megan Authement; and Honorable Mentions were awarded to: *In the Moment*, Alessa Craner; and *Limpkin Chicks*, Shaw Frederick.

OAS congratulates all 2010 winners and extends sincere thanks to all participants whose support of the contest enhances OAS' efforts to protect, preserve and promote awareness of Florida's remaining native wildlife and natural places. Please visit OAS' website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) to view winning images and watch for 2011 contest news to be announced soon on the web and in the *OASis*!

Teresa Williams, OAS' CNPC Chair

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trips

Reservations are required for two guided field trips to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on December 11th and 12th, 8 AM ~ Noon. These are walking field trips (FT) that will be concurrent with bird surveys and led by survey leader and preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson.

In just three years surveyors have documented 156 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. The citrus groves and meandering Genius Drive with its hedges of shell ginger and Turk's cap were planted and constructed by Charles Hosmer Morse, the museum's namesake. The original Wind Song estate built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius still looks across Lake Virginia to Rollins College. A slice of romantic Old Florida has survived, as have Wind Song's infamous Peacocks.

You must be a current Orange Audubon Society member or Preserve workday volunteer to attend and FTs are limited to 20 people each date. Details/register by contacting Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407/644-0796).

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2010-2011**

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Randy Snyder (11)	407/851-5416
Leann Streeper (13)	352/702-9072
Pete Vogt (11)	407/855-4122

Calendar of Events

Oct. 9, 16 & 23 - Saturdays
Butterfly ID classes.
See page 2. Teresa
407/644-0796

Oct. 16, 23 & 30 - Saturdays
Beginning Bird ID classes.
See page 2. Teresa
407/644-0796

Oct. 21, 2010 - Thursday
Membership meeting, 7 pm at
Leu Gardens, Florida Turtles

Oct. 23–24, 2010
Audubon Assembly in St.
Petersburg, FL
www.audubonofflorida.org

Oct. 24, 2010 - Sunday
Limited Edition Field Trip,
Wekiva Basin Banding
Station. gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Oct. 30, 2010 - Saturday
Field Trip - P.E.A.R. Park,
Leesburg, gallusq@cfl.rr.com

Oct. 30, 2010 - Saturday
Oakland Heritage
Festival, 10:00–4:00,
see page 2

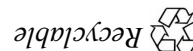
Oct. 31, Dec. 5 & Jan. 6 -
Sundays-Birds of Prey ID
FREE, at Lake Apopka
Restoration area. Gallus,
gallusq@cfl.rr.com

**Nov. 6–7, 2010 - Saturday/
Sunday**
Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park
10:00–5:00, see page 4

Nov. 18, 2010 - Thursday
OAS' nature merchandise
'shop', 6:30–7:00 before OAS'
general meeting (no plastic
accepted)

Wildlife surveys for September - December 2010

Yarborough Tract, Little-Big Econ State Forest bird survey (tentative) – Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 - contact Lorne Malo at 407/659-4853 (work), 407/349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net. **Ferndale Preserve** quarterly bird surveys – contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352/516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com. **Charles H. Bronson State Forest** (Turkey Creek Tract) Butterfly surveys – Oct. 24, Nov. 27 - contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 - home or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.



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